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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

While the headlines may publicize the question of leadership as occupying the spotlight at the National Liberal Convention in this capital yet veteran observers along Parliament Hill here know that one of the most striking big stories behind the scenes of this Convention which did not get the publicity it deserves was that, unlike such national political gatherings in Canada of the past, leadership and platform rather than the mere choice of a new leader and his personality were strongly emphasized. Indeed, mixing amongst the many delegates who came here from all sections of this country caused a deep and unforgettable impression that the voice of the people was dominating the scene and, though the choice of a leader was a "hot" subject in "back room" political talks still what they thought most about was the platform and policies.

Surprising as it may seem to people outside of this capital, there were many delegates who appeared most anxious to discuss platform and policies rather than anything else. Apparently, judging from "on the spot" observations here, it is no longer a secret that the so-called "older" political parties expect a big battle for ballots at the next general election. There will be no walkover and no easy victories, indicating that the professional politician is recognizing now that the older political parties are facing fast changing developments so that the voice of the people must be heard and answered. Old methods must be changed in tune with the changing conditions; personalities may not win votes in future elections as frequently occurred in the past; voters cannot be any longer stamped out; platforms are now more important than mere leadership.

It was observed that the threat of socialism is now being considered as a serious thing by countless Canadians who came here from every part of this country, with the results of the recent by-elections persisting as a topic of whispers amongst the delegates. Another point often heard was that the Liberals will have to watch more carefully now the effects of new leadership in the ranks of the Progressive-Conservative Party or Official Opposition, with opinions prevailing that some drastic changes in that party are in the making. "Austerity" programs may be essential for economic or financial reasons, it was heard here but there was no doubt that even supporters of the Government feared the effects of such programs from a practical vote-getting angle, with hints heard that he important series of announcements bringing some relief in this respect were not made by the Government on the eve of the opening of this Convention just by mere coincidence, especially since stories of strong protest from Government supporters have been circulating here for weeks.

There were numerous other all-important trends noted by this veteran observer and there was no doubt that the voice of the people was speaking at this big national convention in a sharp contrast to such political gatherings of the past with the point being that one cannot help but be deeply impressed with the fact that politics in Canada appears to be entering a new era where so called machines in political organizations and personalities will have less influence than political policies or platforms on the national scene. The masses are now much more political-conscious and they cannot be exploited by demagogues which have bedevilled some political issues in the past.

The human side of this national convention disclosed that democracy is awake and the masses are more concerned about social security programs, easing of taxation burdens, etc., than they are about "solid political blocs," "political understandings," "backroom" political agreements and even "fancy political speeches". It was in reality a sign of a healthy political awakening of the masses and at no time in the history of country have so many representatives of the people from all parts of the land even though representing

one political party, shown such a serious disposition to express themselves on issues rather than on any mere local desire to back an individual for the leadership of a party.

To veteran observers it was a revelation and the dramatic witnessing of the beginning of a new era of political activities in the federal arena where the voice of the people leads rather than is being led with this surpassing actually in lasting importance the choice of a leader and other activities usually associated with such giant gatherings, though of course, these are making headlines at the moment.

INCREASE AND CRITICISMS

There is evidence along Parliament Hill that the interim freight-rate boost of 15% and permanent increase of 20% asked by the Canadian Railways is going to arouse a furious opposition in various sections of the country since it is bound to affect the currently already higher-prices than normal even more so along the line.

The actual basis for the new boosts requested by the railways is supposedly the new \$76,500,000 burden caused by the recent wage increase and "other sharply increased costs", with the railways alleging that costs of materials, wages and supplies have gone up since the 21% boost was granted last March. It is also proposed by the railways that they can submit a plan to equalize certain class and commodity rates between Eastern and Western Canada in order to assist the Board of Transport Commissioners as far as possible in the elimination of any inequalities in the whole freight-rate structure. In addition the railways want the hearing on this latest application to be held at the earliest possible date in September, with the forecast made in the application that there will be a decrease in traffic volume for 1948 compared with 1947 quoting CPR traffic figures to show that in March, April and May this year alone revenue-ton miles of freight had decreased by 11% and estimated deficiency in railway revenues for CPR for 1948 would be \$42,149,000, this being based on net railway earnings of \$24,859,000 before Federal income and Provincial corporation taxes.

SAID IN THE CAPITAL.

"This result was attained without any trace of influence or pressure from Canada", stated Premier King referring to Newfoundland's decision to join Canada.

"Mr. Drew is recognized as a strong leader and is well thought of in Quebec" said Ivan Sabourin, chief of the Progressive-Conservatives in

Quebec province, this being regarded as a hint about the chances of Ontario's Premier if he should throw his hat in the ring for the party's leadership.

"It would be good for the lads, good for Canada, and good for Australia," Thomas Dunbabin, official of the Australian Government's Bureau in this capital in suggesting that Canada's 103,000 Boy Scouts send a delegation representing all provinces to the Jamboree to be held in Australia in December where 40 nations will take part.

"Too many employers are discriminating against the older man on the score of age alone", declared Deputy Minister of Labor Arthur MacNamara.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

The growth of Canada's position on the international scene is being brought home along Parliament Hill by the considerable remodeling of the premises occupied by the Department of External Affairs in the Administration Buildings on the Hill.

The announcement by Australia of the creation of special forces for emergency United Nations commitments is not considered unusual here since this is in line with the United Nations charter.

It is hinted here that Canada's first television station or stations may be in operation by the end of next year, if not earlier.

Permanent residence is now being granted in Canada to most of the 4,500 Polish veterans who came here as immigrants in 1946 and 1947 for agricultural work.

It looks like Earl Mountbatten, former Viceroy of India, and Countess Mountbatten, will have a busy time when they will visit this capital late this month.

Miss Maude Weir May, who worked from 1881 until 1891 for Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald doing general work and writing his personal letters because of her exceptionally attractive handwriting, for typewriters were not used at that time, died in the capital at the age of 85.

Canada will be represented at the annual International Philatelic Exhibition at Basle, Switzerland, this month with an exhibition of Canadian stamps.

Under-Secretary of State Assistant W.P.J. O'Meara, K.C., returning from a trip abroad, stated here that there appeared to be at least a superficial air of prosperity on the continent and there was a considerable influx of Canadian as well as American visitors now, especially in Britain.



By
D. M. McLEAN
Assistant Director,
Line Elevators Farm Service,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Weed Menace On Highways

Officials charged with the responsibility of keeping our highways free of weeds view with alarm the important part the modern method of transporting weed screenings and grain containing weed seeds in fast moving trucks, which are seldom covered and often leaking, is playing in scattering weed seeds along highways and, for that matter, over the whole countryside. To reduce this danger, farmers and commercial truckers, when hauling dirty, bulk grain or screenings, are urged to use only leak-proof grain boxes, and to cover their loads with a tarpaulin, especially on windy days. Let there be no doubt about it; weeds are becoming a very serious menace along the highways and road allowances of Western Canada.

Road Construction. Officials concerned with the construction of new highways and country roads should insist that all ditches be "bladed off" to a uniform gradual slope. This type of construction makes it practicable to seed down the ditch banks and road allowances to grass and allows for easy and effective mowing. From the standpoint of weed control, feed production and appearance the seeding down of road allowances to grass cuts out a too highly commended.

Use of 2,4-D. Timely treatment with 2,4-D can be used to reduce weeds in controlling susceptible weeds and woody plants on highways, road allowances and other uncultivated areas. For this purpose, the 2,4-D form of 2,4-D, applied at the rate of 1 pound to 2 pounds of 2,4-D (acid basis) per acre, is recommended. Recently, treating roadsides with the Ester form of 2,4-D in Diesel oil or kerosene has given exceedingly promising results.

Highway Protection. Weed-free highways not only help in the general problem of controlling weeds, but serve as a convincing public demonstration that weeds can be controlled. Only through the combined interest and efforts of road officials, farmers, commercial truckers, and others can we hope to protect our highways from the present rapidly developing weed menace.

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MATURITY CHART			
DOMINION OF CANADA WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES			
MONTH OF ISSUE	YEAR OF ISSUE	MATURITY DATE	
1940	1941	1941	1942
JAN.		July/41	July/42
FEB.		Aug/41	Aug/42
MAR.		Sept/41	Sept/42
APR.		Oct/41	Oct/42
MAY		Nov/41	Nov/42
JUNE		Dec/41	Dec/42
JULY	Nov/41	Jan/42	Jan/43
AUG.	Dec/41	Feb/42	Feb/43
SEPT.	Jan/42	Mar/42	Mar/43
OCT.	Feb/42	Apr/42	Apr/43
NOV.	Mar/42	May/42	May/43
DEC.	Apr/42	June/42	June/43

This handy chart is available in blotter-form for your convenience. Pick up a few at your nearest B of M branch.

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Raymond Branch: A. C. KING, Manager

WORKING WITH CANADIANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE SINCE 1817

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